



# Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

## News

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### **Menis Ketchum to be Chief Justice in 2012**

For immediate release Tuesday, January 3, 2012

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Justice Menis E. Ketchum took over as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia on January 1.

The Court voted to grant him that position during its last Administrative Conference of 2011, held on November 23. Justice Thomas E. McHugh will assume the duties of Chief Justice in cases in which Chief Justice Ketchum is recused.

Chief Justice Ketchum was elected to a full twelve-year term on November 4, 2008. Chief Justice Ketchum was born in 1943 in Huntington, and was raised in Wayne County. He was educated in Wayne County public schools before attending Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, where he played varsity baseball and was a member of the 1964 Mid-American Conference Championship Baseball Team. Chief Justice Ketchum returned to West Virginia to attend West Virginia University College of Law.

While in law school he was a contributing writer and associate editor of the *West Virginia Law Review*. He received his law degree in 1967 and returned to Huntington to join his father, Chad W. Ketchum (1911-1998), in the practice of law with the firm of Greene, Ketchum & Baker. He practiced at that firm and its successors, eventually becoming the senior partner, until his election to the Court. Chief Justice Ketchum's law practice included insurance defense, personal injury, and criminal defense.

He was recognized continuously from 1989 to 2008 in The Best Lawyers in America and was a member of the Leading Honoraries, the American College of Trial Lawyers, and the American Board of Trial Advocates. Throughout his legal career he published legal articles and presented numerous continuing legal education seminars. Chief Justice Ketchum also served as a member of the Board of Governors of Marshall University from 2002 until his campaign for the Court, and served as Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Board from 2003 until 2008. At the time of his election to the Court, he served on the Boards of the Public Defender Corporations for the Sixth and Twenty-Fourth Judicial Circuits. He previously served on the Huntington Urban Renewal Authority, participated in the statewide Vision Shared Health Care Team, and the Governor's Mine Safety Task Force.

Chief Justice Ketchum has been married to the former Judy Varnum since 1966. They have three children – Kelli Morgan, Bert Ketchum, and Chad Ketchum – and six grandchildren.

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